petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG which continue to be subsidized products, has been decontrolled and the oil marketing companies (OMCs) are fixing the prices after taking into account international oil prices. Even the changes in the consumer prices of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, after providing for the flat rate of subsidy, are to be made by OMCs.

The details of revision in prices of petrol and diesel at Delhi since 1.1.2003 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). There has been no revision in the selling price of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG during the last six months.

Statement

Revisions in Retail Selling Price at Delhi post 1.1.2003.

(*Rs./litre*)

	MS	HSD
3.01.2003	29.93	19.07
16.01.2003	30.33	19.47
1.02.2003	30.71	19.84
1.03.2003	32.10	21.21
16.03.2003	33.49	22.12
16.04.2003	32.49	20.12
27.04.2003	31.49	20.12
1.05.2003	31.40	19.18
1.06.2003	30.30	19.08

Fake gas cylinders

1731. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fake LPG cylinders are being manufactured in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have been reported during the last one year so far; and

(c) the number of persons who have been booked under the Explosive Substances Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) procure the LPG cylinders from oil industry technical committee approved manufacturers under the close supervision of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Besides this, OMCs have instituted stringent measures and inspection procedures to ensure that only genuine cylinders of the company are filled at bottling plants and distributed in the market. The oil company officials also carry out surprise checks at bottling plants and distributors' premises to check the genuiness of the cylinders. The spurious cylinders identified at the bottling plants are segregated and de-shaped to avoid their re-circulation in the system.

Non-adherence of Reservation Policy by Oil PSUs

1732. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent of Retail Outlets, Dealerships, LPG Distributorship and SKO Dealerships are reserved for SCs and STs;

(b) if so, whether all the Oil Companies have adhered to this reservation;

(c) if so, the details of dealership in each category, Oil Company-wise and out of that allotted to SCs and STs separately; and

(d) what action Government propose to take where this reservation has not been adhered to by Oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Consequent upon the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers/ distributors for retail outlet dealership (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships for different locations in the country, will be made by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them. While finalising the policy, OMCs will take a view on all related questions including reservation of allotments for the Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST).

The guidelines which were in vogue earlier had provided for reservation in allotment of dealerships/distributorships to SC/ST